

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because in the first full paragraph on page 19 of the specification the reference characters “72” and “73” have both been used to designate drawstring. By this amendment the first paragraph on page 19 has been amended to indicate that reference number 72 refers to the drawstring generally, and that reference number 73 refers to a free end of the drawstring. In the third full paragraph, reference character 75 has been changed to show the correct reference number 78. No new matter is added by the amendments. Please replace full paragraphs one and three as follows. Approval of the corrected specification is respectfully requested.

FIG. 7 shows a braided implant being implanted into a disc nucleus space 78 defined by disc annulus 77. Implant 71 has a first end 74, a second end 75, and a length L that is at least five times its width W. A drawstring 72 is secured near first end 74, and passes through the implant and exits near second end 75. As previously described, drawstring 72 passes into and out of implant 71 at a multiplicity of sites throughout the length of the implant, and includes a free end portion 73. A cannula 76 may be used to assist in inserting the implant through the disc annulus.

FIG. 10 shows the implant of FIG. 7 after the implant has been implanted all of the way into disc nucleus space 78. Drawstring 72 has been pulled sufficiently to bunch or fold the implant completely, so that the width of the implant is now nearly as great as the length. As can be seen from the drawings, an implant having a length-to-width ratio of about 10:1 in its straightened configuration of FIG. 7, has been folded to an implant having a length-to-width ratio of about 2.5:1 in its straightened configuration of FIG. 10.